

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /061 W

----- 022185

R 041622Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4513

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0644

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO SG

SUBJ: KING HASSAN REAPPEARS IN PUBLIC: GREETES SENGHOR AND
ARMY OFFICERS

REF: USDAO 1R 6865 0035 75 (NOTAL)

1. ON FEB 3, FOR FIRST TIME SINCE HIS JANUARY 15 OPERATION, KING HASSAN PERFORMED PUBLIC FUNCTIONS. HE RECEIVED SENEGALESE PRESIDENT SENGHOR, WHO STOPPED FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON WAY BACK TO DAKAR FROM PORTUGAL AND ALSO WAS PHOTOGRAPHED DURING CEREMONY AT PALACE IN WHICH HE APPOINTED BRIGADIER GENERAL ABDESLAM SEFRIQUI AS INSPECTOR OF INFANTRY IN PLACE OF GENERAL BELARBI. KING DID NOT GO TO AIRPORT TO GREET OR BID FAREWELL TO SENGHOR BUT DID TAKE LONG WALK IN PALACE GARDENS WITH HIM, ACCORDING TO PRESS. WITH AID OF CANE, KING STOOD UP FOR MEETING WITH OFFICERS.

2. BOTH SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS AND SENGHOR EMPHASIZED THAT HIS VISIT WAS NOT PURELY PROTOCOLARY, BUT EVEN LESS INDICATION THAN USUAL GIVEN OF WHAT TRANSPIRED DURING HOUR-LONG MEETING.

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SENGHOR DEVOTED MOST OF HIS DEPARTURE STATEMENT TO DISCUSSING

HIS MEETING IN PORTUGAL AND UPCOMING CONFERENCE ON RAW MATERIALS.

3. KING'S REMARKS TO OFFICERS PERHAPS MORE REVEALING OF CURRENT PREOCCUPATIONS. HE NOTED THAT MILITARY MEN NO LONGER "SET ASIDE FROM SOCIAL MAINSTREAM BUT ARE INTERESTED IN WRITTEN AND SPOKEN PRESS." HE THUS CHARGED SEFRIQUI WITH "ENLIGHTENING THEM SO THAT THEY MAY MAKE DISTINCTION BETWEEN GOOD AND BAD, USEFUL AND USELESS, TRUTH AND FALSEHOOD."

4. COMMENT: KING SEEMS BACK IN BUSINESS ALBEIT ON REDUCED SCALE. HIS DISAPPEARANCE FROM MEDIA, PLUS HIS DECISION NOT TO RECEIVE AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN LAST WEEK, INDICATED THAT HIS RECOVERY WAS PROCEEDING SLOWLY. NOW THERE IS CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT IT IS PROCEEDING.

5. AS DATT HAS ALREADY REPORTED, REPLACEMENT OF BELARBI, WHOSE HEALTH HAS BEEN BAD BUT WHO IN ANY CASE NO BALL OF FIRE, WITH COMBAT-HARDENED SEFRIQUI SEEMS FURTHER INDICATION THAT KING IS CONCERNED ABOUT ARMY DISCIPLINE AND MORALE.

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